



Background

- Why focus on early care and education and child welfare?
 - Essential that quality early learning experiences are available and accessible for all young children. Early learning takes place in a variety of settings including outside the home
 - Growing body of evidence that tremendous brain growth occurs, especially from birth to age 3. (Harvard Center for the Developing Child)
 - Evidence equally strong and mounting that young children affected by trauma as well as poverty face more serious consequences that affect their healthy social and emotional growth and development (Perry, B., 2012)
 - Want to track and improve use of quality early learning opportunities as measured by higher rated YoungStar programs and Head Start



YoungStar Basics

- Program began in late 2011; tied to reimbursement in July 2012
- 5 Star rating system based on criteria tied to quality; including a floor of health and safety met by being in compliance with state licensing requirements
 - 2 Stars meet health and safety standards
 - 3 Stars meet proficient levels of quality standards
 - 4 Stars meet elevated levels of quality
 - 5 stars meets highest levels of quality standards
- Head Start programs, nationally accredited programs, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and other national and state accreditations are considered equivalent to a 5 star program



Milwaukee Collaboration

Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare:

- Meetings with Head Start agencies beginning in 2012
- Establishment of information sharing protocols, e.g., identifying contact people at each agency, policies and procedures to better streamline information sharing and service delivery
- Formalized these procedures in MOU's that are now finalized with all but one of the local Head Start agencies
- Partnering with Head Start to offer parent café program for parents



Making Connections - Statewide

■ State Collaborative Activities

- Wisconsin Head Start Association, Wisconsin Head Start Collaboration Project and DCF worked together to raise awareness of Head Start resource and value for early childhood development.
- DCF surveyed counties about collaboration between Head Start and child welfare; results showed interest and engagement in local service delivery and coordination.
- Two statewide Head Start sponsored “Finding Your Way” conferences in 2012 and 2013 focused on building partnerships, connections and strategies for more coordinated service delivery, provided overview of child welfare services and Head Start, highlighted Milwaukee’s work and provided opportunities to meet with local partners.
- Pleased to see a growing number of counties with MOU’s specifically with HS, outside Milwaukee, at least 12 counties and 3 Tribes with MOU, 5 counties about to finalize an MOU in May (see chart on next slide).
- Promoting collaboration in other ways also important.



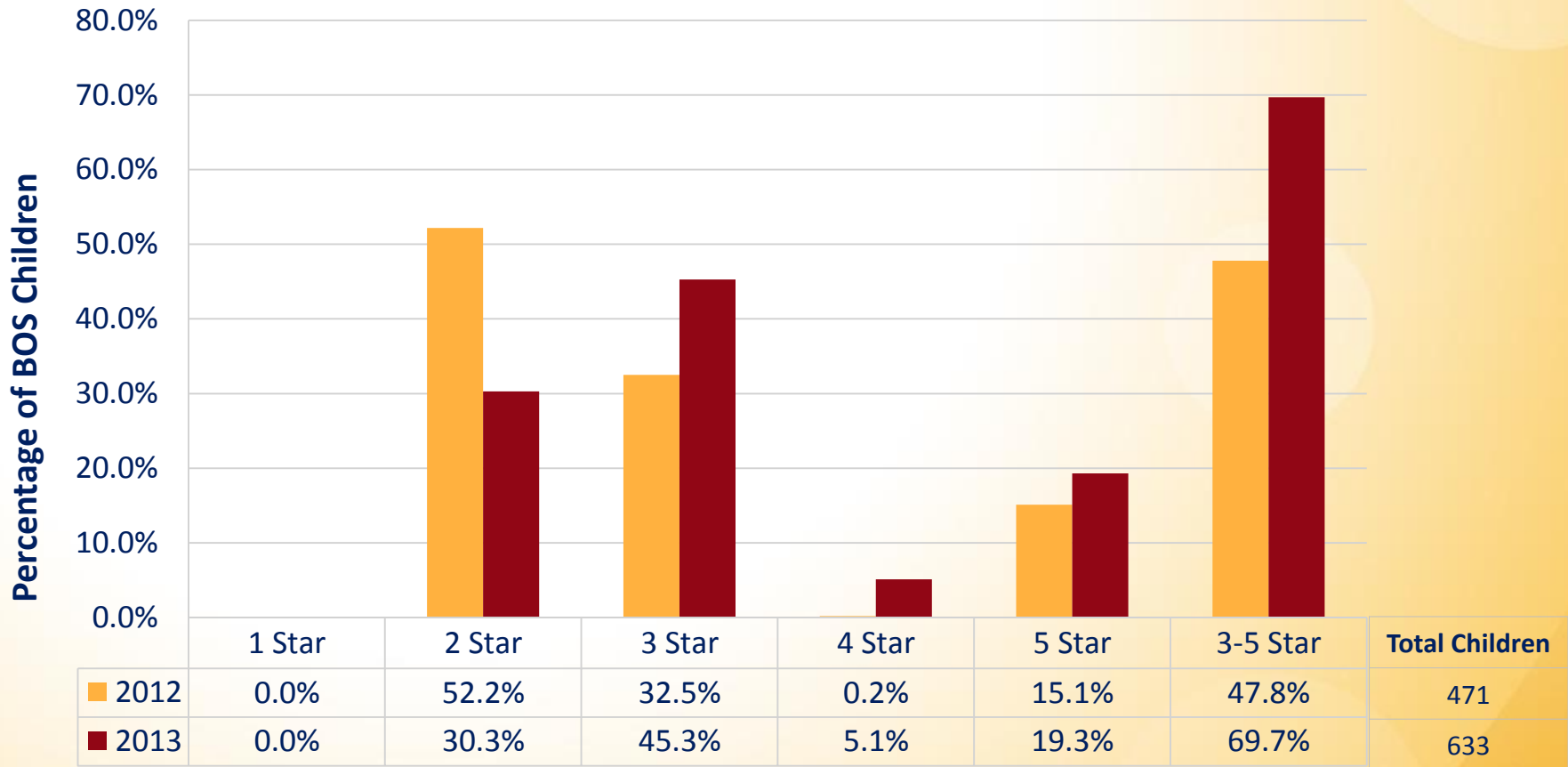
Making Connections - Statewide

- List of Counties and Tribes with Child Welfare/Head Start MOUs

Barron	Green Lake
Brown	LaCrosse
Chippewa	Red Cliff Tribe
Dodge	Rock
Eau Claire	St. Croix Tribal Head Start
Forest	Waukesha
Ho Chunk Nation	Waupaca
Green	

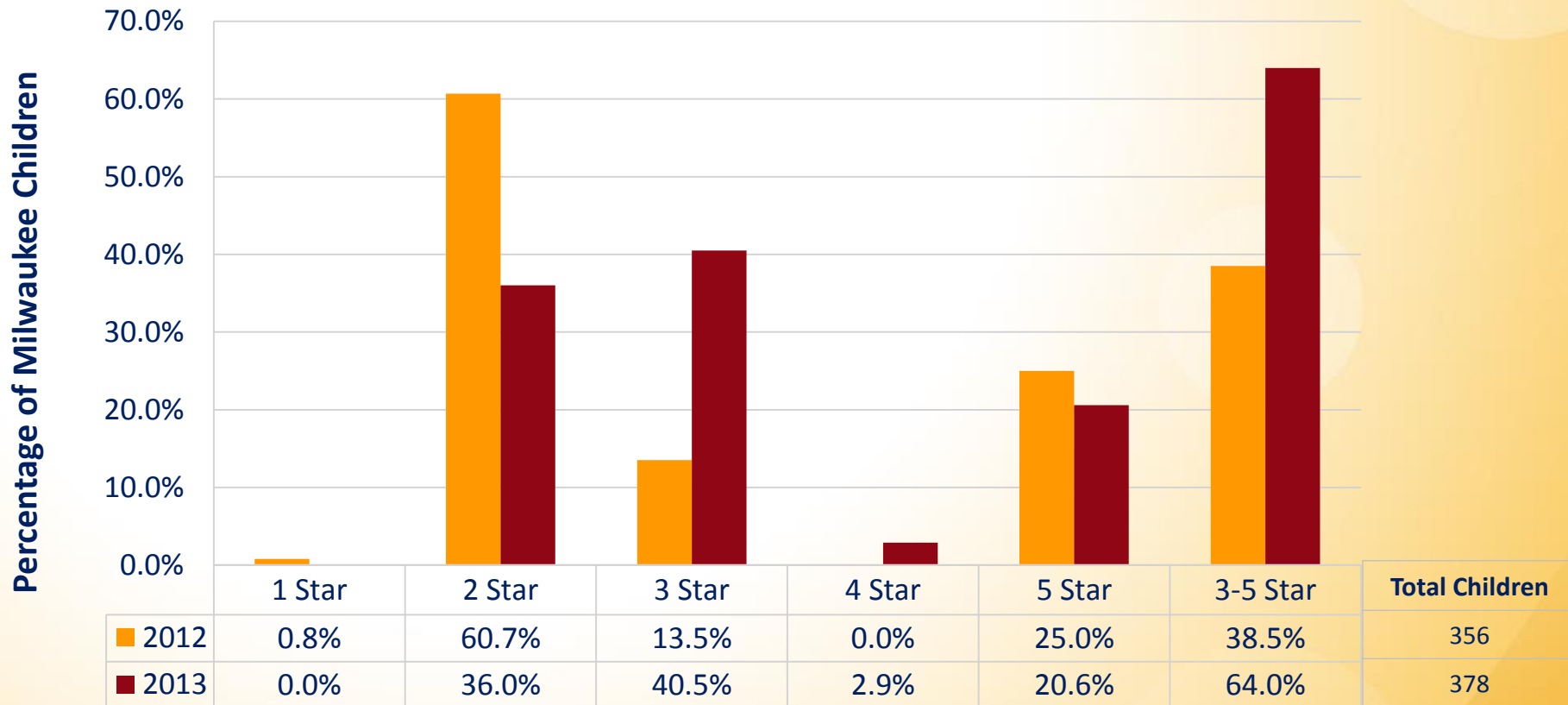
At the time of the last survey - an MOU was under development between Adams, Columbia, Dodge, Juneau and Sauk Counties. Dunn, Walworth, Jackson, Taylor and Florence county have expressed an interest or are in discussion about the possibility of an MOU. DCF is confirming MOU's in Ashland, Buffalo, Douglas, Iron, Price, Washington and Waushara counties.

Balance of State OHC Children by YoungStar Rating



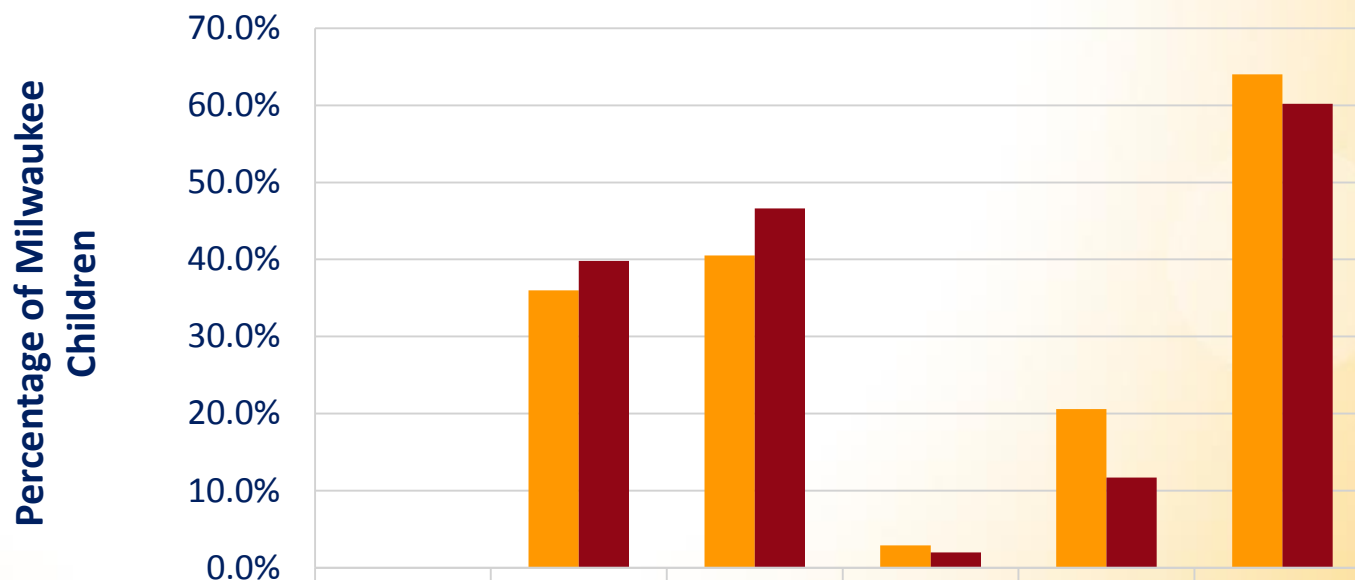
- From 2012 to 2013, there has been a sizeable increase in the number of BOS foster children in a YoungStar Center, as well as an increase in the proportion of foster children within 3-5 star centers.

Milwaukee OHC Children by YoungStar Rating



- From 2012 to 2013, there has been a sizeable increase in the proportion of foster children in Milwaukee in 3-5 star centers.

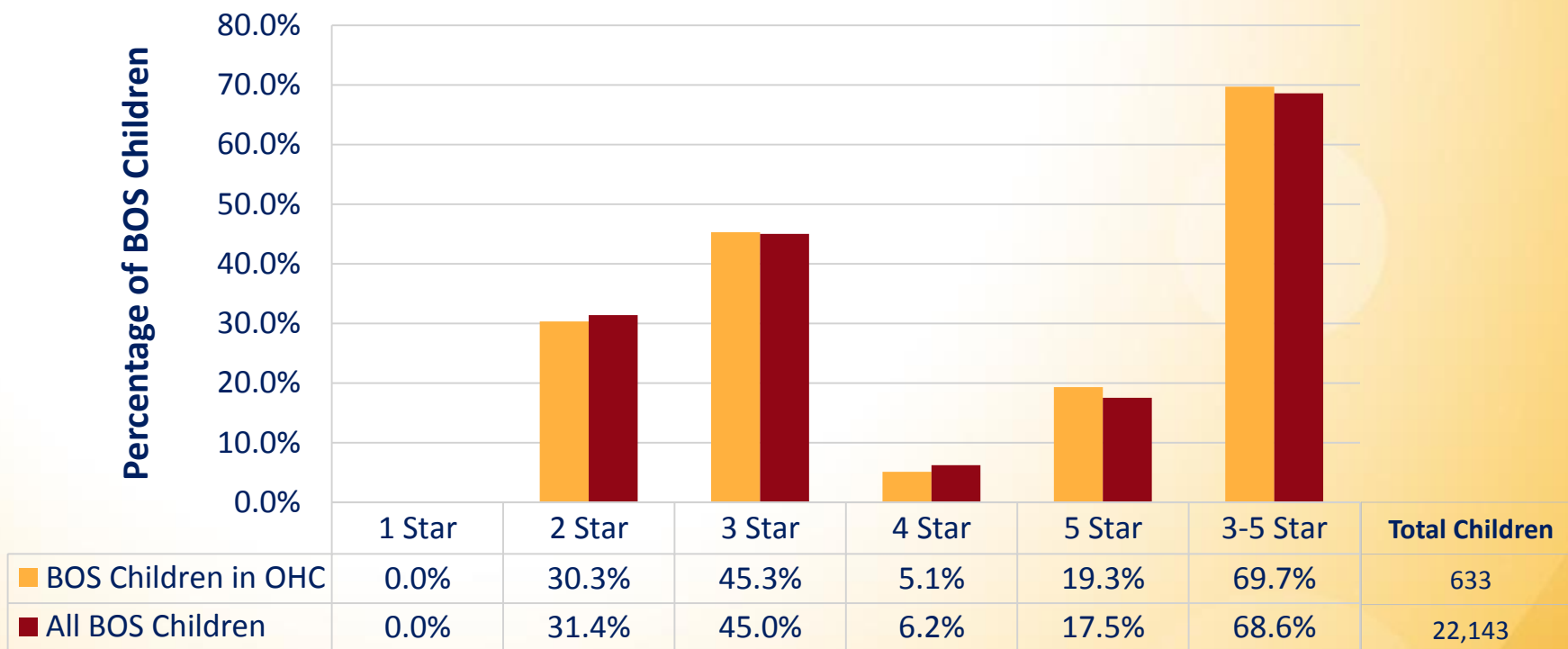
Milwaukee OHC Children and All Milwaukee Children, by YoungStar Rating, 2013



	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	3-5 Star	Total Children
■ Milwaukee Children in OHC	0.0%	36.0%	40.5%	2.9%	20.6%	64.0%	378
■ All Milwaukee Children	0.0%	39.8%	46.6%	2.0%	11.7%	60.2%	21,308

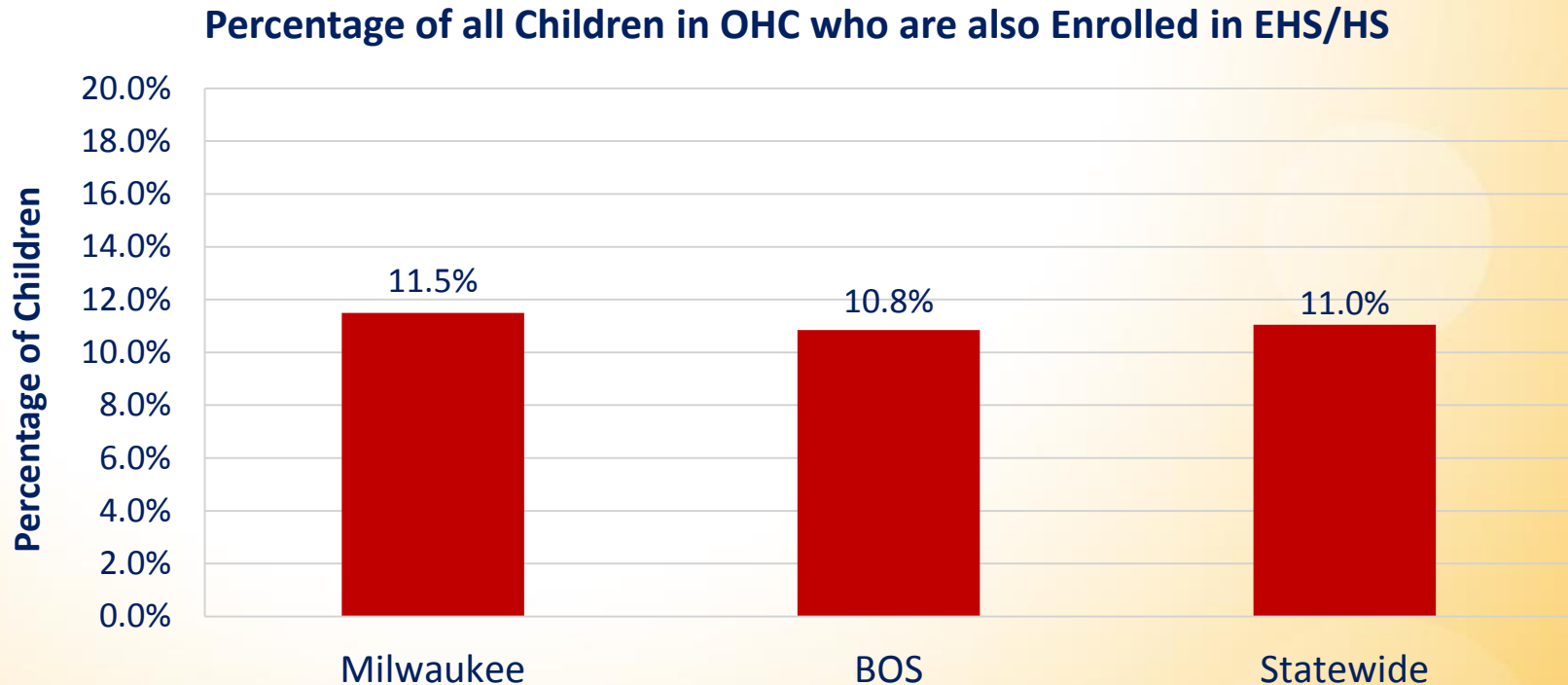
- Milwaukee out of home (OHC) children had a slightly higher percentage of 3-5 star placements, and a sizably larger percentage of 5 star placements, as compared to all Milwaukee children

Balance of State OHC Children and All BOS Children, by YoungStar Rating, 2013



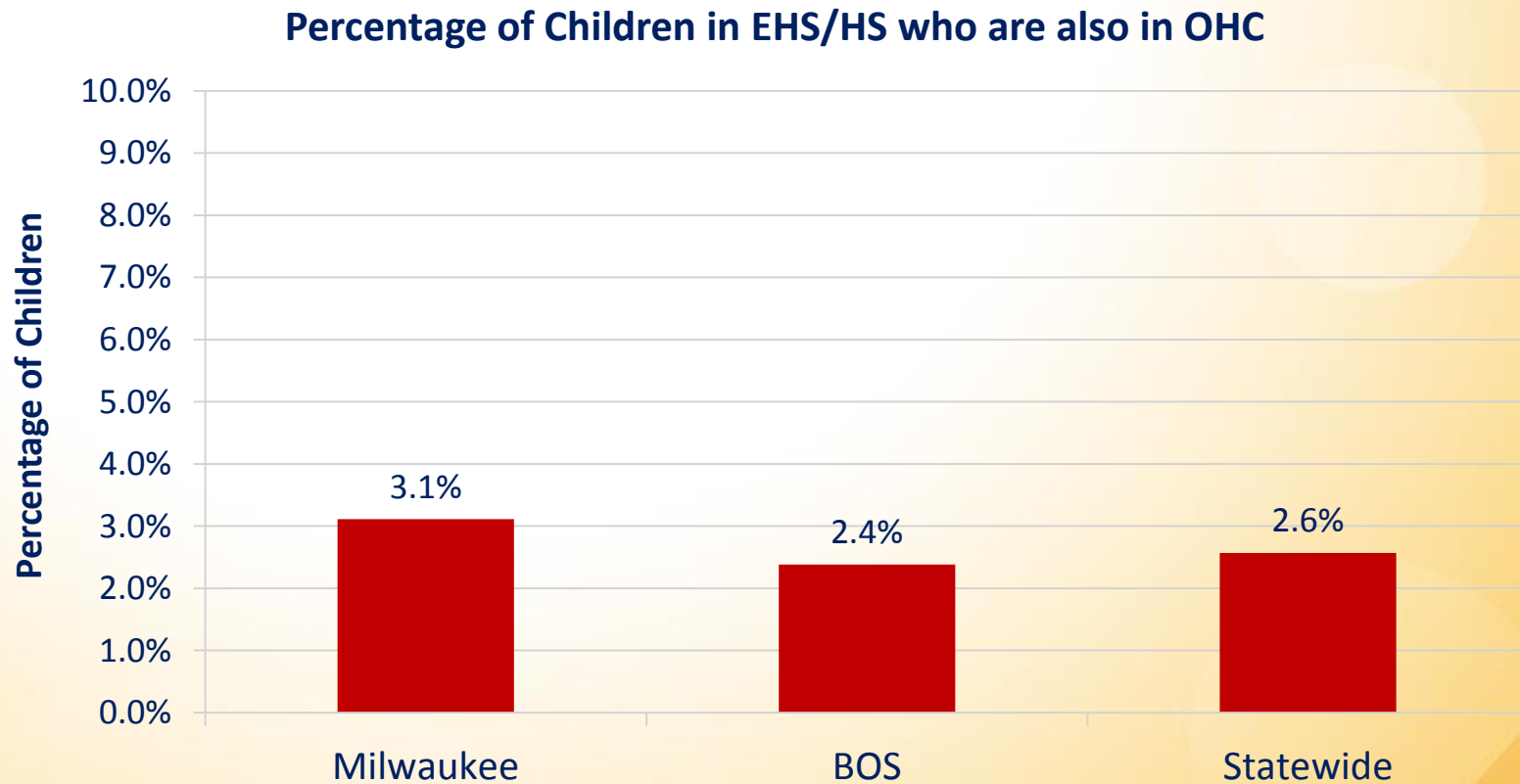
- Balance of State OHC children had a nearly equal percentage of enrollment in 3-5 star centers as compared to all Balance of State children.

Children in OHC who are Enrolled in Early Head Start/Head Start in 2012-13 School Year



- In both Milwaukee and BOS, approximately 11% of out-of-home care children are enrolled in early Head Start or Head Start.

Children in EHS/HS who are also in OHC 2012-13 School Year





Next Steps

- Pleased with growth of MOU, plan to follow up where there was inconsistent information provided, and to assess more broad coordination efforts via a survey in early 2015
- Will re-examine data on program use in spring.
- Following up other collaboration possibilities, e.g., desk guide , parent cafés, Head Start community fairs, connections with other family support programs
- Presenting at Wisconsin County Human Services Association Conference in May, 2015 about building collaborations
- Identify how to access quality early learning options for foster parents who are not working outside the home
- Continue to strengthen collaboration with all quality programs for children in OHC, HS, YoungStar and 4K